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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/684,205	10/06/2000	Jack H. Hetherington	PIE-10102/29	2529
25006	7590	01/09/2007	EXAMINER	
GIFFORD, KRASS, GROH, SPRINKLE & CITKOWSKI, P.C.			NGUYEN, JIMMY H	
PO BOX 7021			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
TROY, MI 48007-7021			2629	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE	
31 DAYS	01/09/2007		PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/684,205	HETHERINGTON, JACK H.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jimmy H. Nguyen	2629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 December 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-3,6,11,12,15,16,18-22 and 27-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 1-3,6,11,12,15,16,18-22 and 27-36 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Election/Restrictions

1. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Species I, as illustrated in Figs. 1A and 1B;
Species II, as illustrated in Fig. 5;
Species III, as illustrated in Figs. 8, 9A and 9B;
Species IV, as illustrated in Figs. 10A-10B;
Species V, as illustrated in Fig. 11;
Species VI, as illustrated in Figs. 13A-13B; and
Species VII, as illustrated in Figs. 14A and 14B.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, there is no generic claim.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

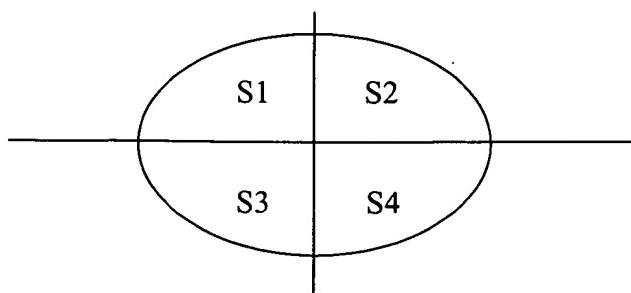
Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either

instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

Notice to Applicant

2. Claims 6 and 36 are identical.
3. As to claim 11, “the elongate member” in line 17 and lines 18-19 should be changed to -- the joystick lever --, so as to make this limitation consistent with the limitation in line 10, in order to avoid the unnecessary objection.
4. Regarding to claim 20, as noted by Applicant, the newly amended claim 20 has been made independent (see page 8, first paragraph, of the amendment filed 12/1/2006), i.e., including all the limitations of the rejected claim 1; however, the limitation, “an output for communicating the user position to the utilization device” of the rejected claim 1, is not recited in the newly amended claim 20. Further, in order to better understand the claimed limitation, “the segments ... being arranged as parallel segments in one direction” recited in lines 15-16, Examiner requests Applicant confirming **all** figures, which shows the above underlined limitation. As shown in the below figure, the segments (S1, S3) may be considerably parallel to segments (S2, S4), respectively, in a vertical direction and the segments (S1, S2) may be considerably parallel to segments (S3, S4), respectively, in a horizontal direction.



5. Regarding to claim 21, as best understood, "the elongate member" in line 2 and "the elongate element" in line 3 of this claim is "a user-manipulable member" in line 9 of claim 20. If so, the mentioned limitations of claim 21 should be amended as -- the user-manipulable member --, so as to make this limitation consistent with the limitation of independent claim 20, in order to avoid the unnecessary objection. If not, the mentioned limitations of claim 21 lack antecedent basis in the claim.

6. Regarding to new claim 31, "of the of the" in line 2 should be changed to -- of the -- due to a typo.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jimmy H. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-7675. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala can be reached at 571-272-7681. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JHN

January 4, 2007



Jimmy H. Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Technology Division: 2629